



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

March 5, 2012

H.B. No. 5372 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PARKING PLACARDS, to require the Department of Motor Vehicles to put the photograph of a person issued a removable windshield placard for people who are blind or disabled on such placard.

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank your for the opportunity to testify on HB 5372, AN ACT CONCERNING PARKING PLACARDS.

The Department has concerns about this proposal for several reasons. The bill would require DMV to place a photograph on the placard. In order to accomplish this, the Department would need to expend substantial resources on this effort at a time when budgetary resources are very tight. Also, there are individuals with disabilities who do not want to have their photograph on the placard as they feel it would be an invasion of their privacy.

Please know that over the last several years, numerous changes have been made to the statutes and regulations that govern handicapped placards in an effort to reduce fraud and abuse of the placards. For example, the DMV now issues handicapped parking placards for disabled individuals with an expiration date. Beginning on October 1, 2010, the DMV began phasing out the remaining lifetime parking placards and has been notifying lifetime placard holders that their permit will expire in accordance with their driver's license or non-driver identification card.

Also, the Regulations Review Committee approved new handicapped placard and license plate regulations in October 2011 which should further aid in reducing abuse. Specifically, the regulations now identify the person to whom the placard was issued by using the last five numbers of his or her DMV issued credential (operator's license or identification card). The regulations also tie the expiration of the placard to the DMV credential; require documentation of certification at renewal time; and require the return of the handicapped placard if the recipient moves out of state or dies.

On a final note, this proposal will negatively impact DMV's IT modernization project, called CIVLS (Connecticut Integrated Vehicle and Licensing System). The next phase of the project is already coded and ready to launch in the next couple of months and this proposal will cost the Department more money and delay the project.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify on this bill.